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Harlan Hatcher says U.S. campuses latest to feel revolt effects

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HARLAN HATCHER SAYS
U.S. CAMPUSES LATEST
TO FEEL REVOLT EFFECTS

MISSOULA, Mont.--

Though U.S. citizens may be more aware of campus uprisings occurring in their own country, a former Michigan educator said Thursday (Aug. 7) that student revolts in U.S. universities "hit this country last."

In his speech entitled, "The Student and His University" at the University of Montana Dr. Harlan Hatcher, president of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from 1951-1967 said students in almost every other nation in the world have been rebelling against the injustices of their societies for years.

He said that American students are now rebelling against being "molded into members of the elite society."

Young people of today are especially concerned with social issues such as widespread poverty, bigotry and war, said Dr. Hatcher.

He emphasized that older people are "completely baffled and mystified by the student revolt." Referring to abilities and convictions of today's youth he warned, "Never write them off and never underrate them."

The war in Vietnam, Dr. Hatcher said, set the stage for the current disenchantment felt by the young. He said the U.S., which at one time was proud that young men offered to fight for their country, is now advocating military conscription.

Rapid deterioration of our cities which is now occurring, according to Dr. Hatcher, is also a source of youthful dissent.

"The rush of populations of the world into urban environments has created a whole new environment," said Dr. Hatcher. A new generation has developed from the "new environment," he says.

HARLAN HATCHER SAYS--2--

He believes that a split generation has occurred in the last few years and that a shift in the academic community toward intellectualism has resulted.

Referring to the "hard-nosed, over-thirty," reaction to youthful dissent the Ironton, Ohio, native said, "Merely to react to the student revolt is by no means the answer." He said that a complete reexamination of the entire learning process is necessary and will come about as a result of recent student rebellion.

When child labor became illegal in this country, Dr. Hatcher said, childhood was extended, now a person is considered a child in our society until he is 24 years old. He added, "We have thoughtlessly detached them (youth) from responsibility."

He referred to the parents of present college students as the "achieving generation." Dr. Hatcher said that these people have worked hard for material wealth and have gained it. Now their children are striving to bring social justice into the system, he said.

Dr. Hatcher received his bachelor's degree, his master's degree/^{and his Doctor of Philosophy}from Ohio State University at Columbus. He has served as special consultant to Constantinos Doxiadis, foremost authority on urban problems. Dr. Hatcher is now doing a study of the Great Lakes Megalopolis.

The visit by Dr. Hatcher to the University of Montana campus was sponsored by the UM summer session, which is under the direction of Dr. Walter C. Schwank, who also is chairman of the physical education department on the Missoula campus.

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